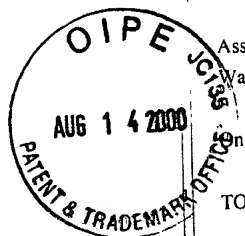


1644\$

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 18623-014100US
Client Reference No.: EPI 0141.00US



Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By:

9 Aug. 2000
Malinda Creget

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Alessandro Sette *et al.*

Application No.: 09/412,863

Filed: October 5, 1999

For: INDUCING CELLULAR IMMUNE
RESPONSES TO HUMAN
IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS-1
USING PEPTIDE AND NUCLEIC ACID
COMPOSITIONS

Examiner: Ronald B. Schwadron, Ph.D.

Art Unit: 1644

STATEMENT AND PETITION TO MAKE
SPECIAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.102;
MPEP § 708.02(XII) #5

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants hereby respectfully petition to make special the above-referenced patent application according to MPEP § 708.02(XII), which pertains to an invention relating to biotechnology filed by applicant who is a small entity.

The present application relates to biotechnology because it is directed to protein and DNA-based vaccines to treat or prevent human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection.

(A) Small entity status has been established for Applicant.

(B) The subject matter of the present application is a major asset of the company, Epimmune Inc.

(C) The development of the technology will be significantly impaired if examination of the patent application is delayed. Delay in examination will impair business

Sette *et al.*
Application No.: 09/412,863
Page 2

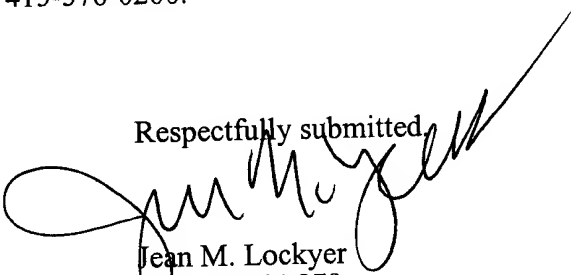
development and financing efforts to maintain the viability of the company and to thereby support development of the subject technology.

Please charge \$130.00, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i), to Deposit Account 20-1430.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing statement establishing that the present invention relates to biotechnology filed by applicants who are small entities, Applicants respectfully request that this petition be granted. If a telephone conference would expedite consideration of this matter in any way, please call the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



Jean M. Lockyer
Reg. No. 44,879

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